

# FRS NEWSLETTER

Volume 5- Issue # 36 - December 2002

## Dear FRS-Holland Friends!

Welcome in this final 2002 edition. As always it was a fight to have this edition in time in your mailbox. I hope it will reach you before X-Mas. The X-Mas Holiday Season is the time of the year when there's the most activity on the various bands. Let's hope propagation won't be spoilsport. May I say thanks to all of you. No doubt your 2002 membership was a support for the FRS Newsletter and I hope you will renew for the New Year 2003. And yes, like all years lying behind us I appeal to all subscribers: send your renewal in January and don't wait till the Summer or even autumn has started. It costs too much energy to remind people that their subscription has to be renewed and perhaps some readers could send their 2002 fee still isn't received. Season's Greetings are going out to all of you, may 2003 become a healthy, radio active and great year!

*73's, Peter V.*

**Full of good intentions for the year 2003? Your first one is sending your renewal straightaway to FRS, P.O.Box 2702 in 6049 ZG Herten. It is simple and takes less than 5 minutes. For € 6/ 4 pounds/ US\$6 you will receive this Newsletter for another year. Don't hesitate but do it...NOW!!!**

**\* If you don't want sending coins you can pay :**

- 1) € 5 banknote + one US dollar. Alternatively....
- 2) € 5 banknote + 2x € 0,50 stamps (only German or Dutch stamps are accepted!!)

## FRS Broadcasting Activities

The past few months FRS carried out two broadcasts on SW. Similar to 2001, September (22nd) saw a 4 hour broadcast on 41 metres 7450 which was aired for a period of more than 24 hours. Response was not as good as last year most likely of less favourable band conditions. But all in all we are satisfied with the number of listeners dropping us a line.

The FRS 22nd birthday pxs went out on Sun October 27th. Minutes before the actual tm would start, we decided to change frequency from 7475 to 7480 kHz. There was "something" audible on 7475, not strong, but as we could not directly identify it we decided to play safe and shifted frequency to the clear 7480 channel. Early in the morning propagation was good but that changed in the course of the morning. Fading & noise badly affected the strong signal. A pity. On 48 metres a loop tape was informing the listeners that FRS was on 41 metres. The message was played on 6210 and later that morning on 6275 kHz. Programme wise (and that's what it's all about) the listening audience was offered a wide variety of music, DX informations and programme items. It seems every year the number of different persons taking the trouble to write in is decreasing. That's very discouraging and disappointing but it seems to be reality in SW free radio land. In the mean time the special October 2002 QSL card has been forwarded to those who send in a snailmail report. We will always reply to those sending in an E-mail but it's our policy those people won't get a QSL. Despite less mail, FRS-Holland will go on trying to entertain listeners with professional programmes, a number of programme items, quality pop music and a serious DX Programme. December 21st/22nd FRS has planned a 5+ hour X-Mas broadcast hopefully going out on 7475 kHz. The latest news is (we heard it just a couple of hours before compiling these words) that FRS-Holland will also be on 48 metres next Sunday (not in parallel with 41 metres!!). And more than ever FRS will be offering its listeners a great and diverse programme output with ingredients such as the Phrase that pays, free radio memories (Radio Europe), FRS archive recordings from X-Mas 1987, of course lots of good music, the letters from September & October and last but not least almost 60 (!) minutes of DX- information (FRS Goes DXmas part 1 & 2. The X-Mas Season will also see at least one test to North America on 48 or 41 metres in the early morning hours. Possibly on the 22nd and/or 29th December! We still believe (and I said this already a year ago) there is certainly a need for the kind of programming FRS is putting out. Not only us but also stations like European Music Radio, Marabu, Nova, WMR etc.). That strengthens our conviction to continue in 2003 with quality programming on SW!! Good news: a fourth presenter will join the FRS ranks. Frank Carson will be doing his debut show either in February or March. And that means that the period of silence following the X-Mas Season will only take 2 or 3 months rather than more than 6!

## FRS Sales Productions

FRS Sales Productions offers you a wide range of video and audio tapes from radio stations all over the world. At this moment a great number of new recordings

(more than 100 hours) are or have already been added. That means that the 2000 lists have been updated. Lots of people are interested in Radio 192 recordings. FRS Sales Prod. offers more than 30 hours of Radio 192. In case you are interested in obtaining the complete brandnew FRS Sales Prod. catalogue, then send € 1.50/ 2 IRCs/ US \$2.00/ £ 1.00 to FRS Sales Productions, P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands. We offer tapes & videos for incredible prices, special discounts are given when ordering more than 5 tapes. And: recordings can also be obtained on MD or CD!! It's worth while to get hold of the revised catalogue, so where are you waiting for?? The FRS SALES LIST 2002/2003 contains hundreds of recordings from radio stations all over the world. It's also available via Email (attachment = free).

E-mail address: < frs.holland@hccnet.nl >

P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands

## SW FREE RADIO SCENE

### General

First a look at the propagation over the past few months: September 22nd: good propagation; September 29th: good; October 6th: fair/good, October 13th: poor/ fair; October 20th: fair/good; October 27th: fair/good; November 3rd: poor; November 10th: good; November 17th: good; November 24th: fair. Looking at the activities on the band, it is crystal clear that since October activity has increased. Sun Nov. 10th no less than 40 or more stations were to be received on the various bands, an absolute record at least when looking back at the previous month.

September 22nd 2002 marked the start of TRANSATLANTIC RECEPTION of Euro pirates. A number of American DXers tune in trying to catch Euro pirates nearly every weekend. One of the most active- perhaps the most active DXer- is Dave Valko who proudly announced his first successful receptions in the 3rd weekend of September. Best times for having positive results is between 05.00-08.00 UTC. Dave uses a professional NRD-535D receiver. These stations were picked up by him in the early morning of Sun Sept. 22nd: Laser Hot Hits on 9385, 6219 and 7465, FRS-Holland on 7450, RAL 15070, Radio Borderhunter on 15795, Crystal Radio 6275, WMR 7525, Sensation AM 15725, RWI 6245, Ozone 6240, UK Radio 6266. Sept. 29th more stations were being monitored: West Coast Radio on 6259, UK Radio 6266, RAL 6210, Radio Tower 7485, Piepender 6308, Ozone 6240, CRR 7475, LHH 6245 (via JRR) and LHH on 7465, 6219, 9385 & 3970 (best signal was the 31 mb outlet). October 13th: Radio Marabu 6210, 6267 UK Radio, Laser Hot Hits 6219, 7465 and 9385 kHz. October 27th Radio Omroep Zuid on 21890 kHz. Sun Dec. 8th Radio Marabu 62110, Radio 48 6300, RAL 6300, Radio Brigitte 6540, ROZ 21890, Cupido 21896 and Borderhunter 21880.

News from Jonny regarding the future of SRSnews: "Well, I have decided to stop the press. December 30th will be the last issue of SRSnews! After almost 8 years and approx. 800 pages of logs, it is time for some rest! This is what will happen, as it looks today: 1. SRSnews will close down....2. SRS Maildrop will remain....3. SRS.pp.se will remain and will be more interactive....4. Well, we have to wait and see... Thank you Jonny for all your hard work over the years!!

Since the October/November period several stations have been making arrangements with the Free Radio Service Holland owning the P.O.Box 2702 in Herten facilities. Apart from FRS, the following stations are making use of P.O.Box 2702: Radio Brigitte, Radio Borderhunter, Radio Omroep Zuid (ROZ), Radio Victoria, Radio Spaceshuttle Int.& RTN 2000.

DXer Tom Read from the UK has set up an interesting website showing a wide variety of QSLs he received from stations all over the world. The webpage contains QSLs from both pirates and legal stations. Surf to < tomread.co.uk >.

And now for something completely different the SW Free Radio Scene....

Monday Nov. 4th UK-based RADIO 48 was noted on 6300. We are not sure who's behind this new UK station and whether there are ties with the Radio 48 from the 80s, using the well-known Victoria Rd add. Sat Nov. 23rd & Dec. 7th 6300 was again in use. Email add is < radio48@hotmail.com >.

Dutch pirate RADIO 757 is rarely to be heard on SW. Sun Dec. 8th the station popped up on 6275 with a fair signal. Last time Radio 757 was active was in May of this year. Email add could be < radio757@hotmail.com >. Power seems to be a mere 15W.

APOLLO 815 is a station based in Alkmaar in the North-West of the Netherlands. The station was heard on 6310 Sun Oct. 6th with fair/ good signals. E-mail add was < apollo815@hotmail.com > but it looks like this one is not in use anymore. Don't confuse this one with a station from Beilen in the North-east of the country using almost the same name, namely Radio Apollo. The latter one was heard Sun Oct. 13th on 6275.

RADIO BARONES is closing its < radiobarones@hotmail.com > address and can only be reached via < komopdeband@hotmail.com >.

RADIO BORDERHUNTER made a successful test to North America on 15795 kHz Sun Sept. 22nd. And: the station was not only heard in the land of Uncle Sam but also in New Zealand. Sun Oct. 6th Borderhunter was heard briefly on 6210, then the station changed to 6280. Signals on both freqs were very strong! Sun Oct. 13th Borderhunter was heard with excellent signals in Australia. That morning Borderhunter was active on 15795 kHz. Sun Oct. 20th the station was blasting out

on 6210 kHz in the late morning. Finally we mention Sun Dec. 8th when the station was heard loud and clear on 6200. That same day in the afternoon Borderhunter tested to North America on 21880 and was indeed received with a fine signal on the other side of the Atlantic. Add is P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands. Email is <borderhunter@hotmail.com>.

▷ **RADIO BRIGITTE** was heard on 6373 kHz Sun Sept. 15th & 29th. Signals are mostly fair. Sun Oct. 6th 6273, 6373 and 6540 were in use. Oct. 13th Brigitte was on 6407. Nov. 10th 6540 was in use. Another favourite frequency is 6373 and this one was used Sun Dec. 1st. Sun Dec. 8th Brigitte was back on 6540. The station is operated by OP Frans who's now 67! Certainly a unique situation in SW free radio land. Address is P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands. E-mail is <radiosunflower@hotmail.com>.

▷ Dutch **RADIO CENTRAAL** was noted with a nice signal on 6290 Sun Oct. 20th. Centraal made use of a new antenna and had some minor problems with the modulation. Sun Nov. 10th saw Centraal on 6263. The station suffered from mod problems, at least for the speech. The station uses the following address: P.O.Box 73, 7160 AB Neele in the Netherlands.

▷ Sun Nov. 10th **RADIO CONTINENTAL** returned on SW 48 metres after a long absence. The station produced a nice signal. Sat Nov. 16th tests were conducted on 6305. Add is P.O.Box 1104, NL-8001 BC Zwolle in the Netherlands. Fri Nov. 15th a new Email was announced: <continental66@home.nl>.

▷ **CRAZY WAVE RADIO** (5) was heard together with Germans colleagues **Bermuda Dreieck** & **Likedeeleer** on 6205 Sun Dec. 8th. A fair/good signal was heard during the broadcast which was most likely a live one. The signal was also to be heard on 6305 although not exactly in parallel. The Neele was also given.

▷ **RADIO DIGITAL** is a new station which was heard qso-ing on Sun Oct. 6th. Signal quality was rather poor. E-mail address is <digital48@hotmail.com>.

▷ Sun Nov. 17th Dutch **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND** (3) was heard on 7480 following a long absence. The station was heard with rock tracks and produced a wonderful signal.

▷ **EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO** made a surprising return via the IRRS on 13840 kHz/13 metres. Sat/Sun Nov. 23rd/24th saw EMR with a 60 min. show via the powerful 10 kW AM outlet. Ahead the listening audience was informed about the new EMR activities via Email. For the time being one hour trms are planned which will be presented by EMR's founder Barry Stephens. In the Nov. shows it was clearly stated EMR is from now on a legal operation. The Herten maildrop is not being used anymore, instead the following add is valid: E.M.R. , c/o IRRS - Shortwave, P.O. Box 10980, I-20110 Milano, Italy. In addition a brandnew Email address is in operation: <emr@blueyonder.co.uk>. As already mentioned, each trm will be aired twice in the weekend of airing. Dec. 14th/ 15th saw EMR between 09.30-10.30. A format of new and classic tracks was played. Interesting as always was the popular London landbased Free Radio spot featuring interesting tape archive recordings from the period 1968-1985. This time Radio Jackie was in the spotlight. Rec. reports, personal information and programme comments are more than welcome. Please enclose 2 ir's or a one dollar note and you will receive a quality EMR qsl and station info-sheet. The history of EMR is an interesting one starting in the mid 1970s...

A potted history.... EMR started in the late 70s, the first official shows were aired in May 1977 following a test period which began in 1976. EMR developed into Europe's leading SW station with a great variety of music and speech-orientated pxs. It was the first station seriously using a 48 & 41 mb channel in parallel, it was the first one testing to North America (with 10W)! And EMR had a few very talented presenters such as AJ Beirns and the late Roger Tate. Oct. 1980 EMR was raided but show continued via the facilities of FRS Holland on 5th Sundays. EMR finally closed down Sun June 12th 1983, a very weird thing then happened because FRS-Holland and EMR were at the same moment on the same frequency. Not for long, after a few minutes FRS signed off clearing the frequency for its sister-station.... In the late 90s EMR returned to the European airwaves. With a few new and some of the old presenters, with a brandnew jingle package (Loop ter Zee, Peter V., Herbert Visser, Johnny Best, Barry Stephens) and with new élan. The comeback trm in April 1997 was at the same time EMR's 20th birthday but was overshadowed by some bad luck. The station would be relayed via RFL but that was cancelled twice. Eventually the signal came from Ireland but was only poor on the European continent. Oct. 5th 1997 the complete pxs from April were repeated on 6275 all weekend long and this time things looked much better. EMR continued with programming concentrating on the period October- March when propagation on 48 metres is favourable. Pxs were presented in English, German, Swedish, French and Dutch. October 3rd 1999 saw the final EMR shows although that was not known at the moment the pxs went on air. The lack of response made Barry S. decide to quit. And so it was a big surprise to hear EMR returning to the airwaves Sun Jan. 27th. During that broadcast a lengthy tribute to **Roger Tate** who died early 2001 was presented. Roger Tate presented the Mailbag Show during the heydays of SW free radio and EMR: the late 70s/ early 1980. Extracts were played bringing back some real good memories. Sat Febr. 16th/Sun Febr. 17th 2002. E.M.R. was celebrating its 25th birthday. Trms were aired on Sat and Sun on 7450 and surprisingly also on 9290. On 9290 the same pxs were aired but these pxs were not running at the same time as on 41 metres. Pxs featured French, German, Swedish, Dutch and English shows. Presenters: Steven Reath, Jean-Claude Georges, Mike Anderson, Peter Verbruggen and John Sandy. E.M.R. planned a repeat of the 25th birthday on 31 metres 9290 Easter weekend. Last but not least: EMR announced further broadcasts for the months of January, February and March 2003.

▷ **RADIO EUROPE** from Italy is active every Saturday and Sunday on 7306 USB between 07.00-12.00 UTC. At present time with old shows, this is due to a

problem in the computer system. As soon as it has been repaired new shows will be put out including European Music Radio programs. E-mail for contacts is :

<radioeurope@iol.it>.

▷ **RADIO FAVORITE** was heard qso-ing with the Casanovas on 6235 Sun Oct. 20th. Also 6285, 6300 & 6400 was used that day. The station announced the following address: P.O.Box 130 in 4730 AC Oudenbosch in the Netherlands.

▷ **FLUX AM** returned after an absence of several years back on SW early November. Sat Nov. 2nd the station was heard with a fairly strong signal on 6302 kHz. The following day Flux again used 6301 kHz. Fri Nov. 15th Flux appeared once again on 6301. Sat & Sun Nov. 16th/17th 6276 was in use. Later that Sunday live pxs were noted on 6301. 6285 was in use on Sun Dec. 1st. Radio Flux is making use of a new address: P.O.Box 33, 4158 ZG Deil, The Netherlands. E-Mail: <info@fluxfm.nl>.

▷ Mid November a new station announced the start of a series of test trms on SW. Name of the station is **FREE RADIO BEACON**. 6315 was mentioned as frequency. The station emphasized that only low power tests should be conducted to demonstrate and find out what results can be achieved at different times of the day only using a few watts. Best reception is in the LSB mode because of the utility / noise stations just above 6315KHz. Here are some technical infos: Antenna: Halve wave Dipole directed north to Scotland & south to Italy hanging some 5 metres above the ground, Frequency: 6314.95 KHz, Output: 60, 15, 6 and 1 mWatt (0.06, 0.015, 0.006 & 0.001 Watt), Modulation : Shifted Frequency (Shift 90 Hz / 1 sec.). Seven listeners from 6 different countries including Germany, France, Scotland, Ireland, Norway & Poland heard the station on 6315 Sat Dec. 7th. Sun Dec. 8th saw the station on air using 6 mW. Rec. reports came from Germany, Poland, mid-east France and Scotland. This is amazing knowing the tx QTH is in the Northern part of the Netherlands. One of the listener's replied as follows: "If that is truly 15 mW of RF power, it's incredible that wee signal making that 700 km journey. The signal was quite weak, so my S-meter probably only indicated the level of the noise. Its signal is very weak (barely audible) but no doubt, this is it! Good reception here at 14:40 UTC this Saturday. I wonder how low you can go in mW - hi! Excellent signal for 15mW! The beacon was audible with a good signal level." Such response speaks for itself! The only thing which lacked was reception of the 1 mW test. In the mean time the station received one rec. report from Italy for the 1 mW test. For more info about the results of these tests, surf to the station's website, also providing a circuit diagram of the little transmitter. It is rumoured trms would come from the Northern part of the Netherlands. In an Email the unknown OP urged listeners to include as much info as possible about the time of fade outs and the strongest signal strength. Anyone including a post address in his/her E-mail report, will or already has received a special QSL card. For updated news surf to <frb.port5.com>. Email add is <freeradiobeacon@hotmail.com>.

Latest news: the following E-mail was received Dec. 15th and is in addition to the info above: "This time I have good news and bad news: The bad news is that I have made a big mistake in my power calculations.... The good news is that the output of the Beacon transmitter was even lower as I thought it was I did some re-calculations on the 15, 6 and 1mW experiments and here are the results; 60 milli Watt stays the same because this was not measured with a oscilloscope. 15 milli Watt was in real 11.0 milli Watt, 6 milli Watt was in real 1.7 milli Watt, 1 milli Watt was in real 0.049 milli watt. During the 1 milli Watt experiment of last week only one listener from Itali has heard the Beacon signal on Saturday morning. The output was very low and that is why I have modified the attenuator circuit today to set power back to what we like to see. Now I'm sure that the output is 0.9 milli Watt. A other positive part is that we know for sure that 0.049 milli Watts of power is not enough to make the journey from transmitter to the ionosphere and back to earth."

▷ **RADIO GALAXY** (10)- the UK station- was heard on 6266/6306 Sat Sept. 14th. On both freqs poor/ fair signals were heard on the European continent. Sat Oct. 19th Radio Galaxy was heard on several freqs including 5780, 6260, 6266, 6275, 6306 and 6400 KHz. Sat Oct. 26th Galaxy was heard on RFL's old 5805 QRG in parallel with 6306.

▷ There's also a station of Dutch origin using the name **RADIO GALAXY**. This one was noted on 7470 Sun Nov. 10th and Sat Nov. 16th. Sun Nov. 17th/ Sat Nov. 23rd 7440 was in use. Sun Nov. 24th Galaxy was heard on 7440, 7442 and 7445. Sun Dec. 8th 7480 was in use. Power is 50W. New Email address: <swrgalaxy@yahoo.com>.

▷ **RADIO GERONIMO** (10) was relayed via RAL on 6275 and 15070 Sun Oct. 20th. A Dave Scott show was aired including letters and pop music. On 15070 Geronimo was received in Australia. Geronimo was also heard via its own tx: Sunday Sept. 22nd 7475kHz was in use between 10.00 till 10.45 UTC. A very loud signal was heard in the UK. Later that morning Geronimo switched to 31metres 9355kHz for another 45mins finishing at 11.50 UTC. Many E-mails have been received though the power was only 25w. Sun Nov. 10th and 24th Geronimo was heard with fair signals on the continent on 7475. On the latter date a combined mailbag & oldies show was aired. E-mail is <radiogeronimo@hotmail.com>.

▷ UK-based **GOOD MUSIC RADIO** was heard a few times on 6200. Sun Sept. 29th the station put out a good signal playing classic pop tracks. Sun Oct. 20th & Nov. 10th saw GMR again on 6200 with a nice signal. Add is P.O.Box 3836, CO4 3QW Colchester, Essex in the UK.

▷ **RADIO GRENSWINKEL** which could be contacted via P.O.Box 1732 in Gronau, doesn't use that that address anymore. Sat Oct. 19th the station was heard on 6384 kHz.

▷ In the weekend of Sat and Sun Oct. 12th/13th **KING SW** returned on SW 6205 following a very long period of silence. The station put out fairly poor signals. The following weekends saw the station back on 6205 with the same signal quality. E-mail address is <kingsw@hotmail.com>.



► **RADIO KORAK INT.** was heard with the usual strong signal on 3927 kHz Sunday September 15th. A female deejay was co-presenting the show. Sat Oct. 5th RKL returned on 3927 but suffered from technical problems. A week later on the 12th RKL was once again heard on 3927. Sat Oct. 26th RKL produced another very strong signal on 3927. Very loud indeed! In November RKL made two broadcasts: on the 16th & 30th, both on 3927. Already one week later, Sat Dec. 7th, RKL was back on 3927. Add is P.O.Box 134 in 3780 BC Voorhuizen in the Netherlands. In the mean time the station can also be reached via E-mail: <radiokorak@hotmail.com>.

► **MAGIC AM** has a new address as a result of the closure of the Box 94 Zeddam address. From Jan. 1st onwards you can write to: Magic AM, P.O.Box 73,7160 AB Nede in The Netherlands.

► **RADIO MARABU** was noted on 6210 Sat & Sun Oct. 12th/13th, Sat & Sun Nov. 16th/17th and Sat/Sun Dec. 7th/8th. All trms were coming via relay facilities. Pre-announcement: Marabu plans to be on air on 6210 kHz Sat/Sun Dec. 28th/29th of December 2002 with a special Christmas program. Add is P.O.Box 1166, D-49187 Belm, Germany. E-mail: <marabu@radiomarabu.de>. Website: <www.radiomarabu.de>.

► **RADIO MAZDA** uses the following address: Muntzstraat 8, 8141 VP Heino, the Netherlands.

► **RADIO METEOR** announced P.O.Box 71, NL-7720AB Dalfsen, the Netherlands.

► Finnish **RADIO MILLIWATTI** was heard on 6290 Sun Sept. 22nd at 00.16 hours UTC. Pxs which are rarely to be heard, were aired in English, signal quality was poor. The station's E-mail add is <radiomilliwatti@hotmail.com>.

► **RADIO MISTER X** can be contacted via P.O. Box 41, 8080 AA Elburg the Netherlands.

► **RADIO MONIQUE** is a relatively new station based in the very northern province of Friesland. Sun Sept. 15th & 22nd and Sat Sept. 28th Monique was heard with poor/ fair signal on 6286 kHz. On the 22nd 6391 was also used. During the px a mobile tel. number was mentioned. Sept. 29th saw a test on 6398, signal quality was fine. More broadcasts were noted on 6308 and 6398 Sun Oct. 6th. Monique uses two E-mail addresses: <info@monisound.nl> and <monisound@hotmail.com>. Website: <www.monisound.nl>.

► Sun October 20th German powerhouse **RADIO MONO** returned on the airwaves after a break of almost 9 months. Earlier this year on Sat January 26th the station was raided by the German Bundespost. Mono was heard on 48 metres 6301 qso-ing with Dutch West Coast Radio. The signal was booming in, no doubt a powerful tx was used. A week later, Sun Oct. 27th, Mono was picked up on 6295 (among other freqs) relaying the SWR 3 satellite output. Sun Nov. 10th and Sat 16th Mono was back on 6295. On the 17th 6400 was used while the station was QSO-ing with Dutch colleagues. Sat Dec. 7th saw Mono on 6290 with the usual signal quality. The next day 6295 was in use with a brief test. Before the raid Mono was often on 31 metres but as far as we know 31 metres hasn't been used since the return. Mono can be reached via E-mail: <radiomono@hotmail.com>.

► **RADIO NORDMENDE** is a relatively new Dutch SW station. Sun Nov. 3rd Nordmende was heard on 6300 & 6303. Sat Nov. 9th saw the station with strong signals on 6305, the following day 6260 & 6270 were in use. Sun Nov. 17th Nordmende was clearly heard on 6270 and Nov. 30th 6277 and 6307 were occupied. Sun Dec. 1st & Dec. 8th Nordmende was heard loud and clear on 6271kHz. There seems to be a kind of misunderstanding with the station's snailmail address: a number of letters were received via P.O.Box 2702 in Herten but that's not the correct address. Radio Nordmende uses P.O.Box 65, 7260 AB Ruurlo. This address may be familiar to SW listeners as it was used by Radio Delta Ruurlo. Reason for this misunderstanding is that both Dr. Tim News and SRS-News included an item about Radio Nordmende publishing the Herten maildrop! How they got this news is not clear. Radio Nordmende can also be contacted via Email: <radionordmende@hotmail.com>.

► **RADIO NORDSEE INT.** from Germany was noted with excellent signal on 6307 Sun Nov. 10th. Several short tests were conducted using a different kind of modulation, resulting in harmonics on both sides of 6307. Add is P.O.Box 2209, D-77612 Offenburg in Germany.

► **RADIO NOVA INT.** (4) from the UK returned on SW 7450 kHz Sat & Sunday November 2nd/3rd. Signal quality was fair with as always a loud & clear modulation. It's good to have this quality station back on the airwaves. Nova was already silent since last Summer. The real come-back however took place one week later when Nova appeared on 6210 all weekend long. Pxs in English, German & Dutch were heard. Signal strength was satisfactory. Sat/Sun Nov. 29th & 30th Nova was for the 3rd weekend that month on the air, this time once again on 6210 with nice signals. Email: <rnsw@aol.com>.

► German **RADIO NORTHLIGHT** send an Email message stating a new website has been put into service. Surf to <www.northlight-radio.tk> for more detailed info. There will be no activity in 2002 anymore. But if you like a Flashback: the station OP has started work to reply to those written in to the station since 1995....

► **RADIO OMROEP ZUID** was noted on several occasions. Sun Nov. 10th saw the station with fair strength on 6260 in the early evening hours. Oct. 27th & Dec. 8th ROZ was heard on 21890 in the USA. New address is (1) and also via E-mail you can reach the station OP: <roz.am@iae.nl>.

► Dutch **RADIO PARADISE** was heard back on the airwaves Sun Oct. 27th following a 3 month break. On 6305 a fairly strong but also slightly undermodulated signal was noted. The station's <radioparadise@hotmail.com> address is no more. Instead use: <paradiseinternational@hotmail.com>.

► **RADIO PERFECT** from Germany was heard with fair signals on 7430 Sun Sept. 22nd. The station is putting put a C&W format and can be reached via P.O.Box 1732, D-48578 Gronau, Germany.

► **RADIO PIEPZENDER** is a Dutch station which was heard on 6308 Sun Sept. 29th. The very strong signal was spluttering some 50 kHz on both sides of the freq.! The station is using a new E-mail add: <piepzender@planet.nl>. Snailmail add is P.O.Box 1104, 8001 BC Zwolle in The Netherlands.

► **POWER 41** was heard with nice strength on 7480 Sun Nov. 24th. 7495 was in use on Sun Dec. 1st but the signal was very poor. Better results were achieved on 6260 Sat Dec. 7th and 6241 Sun Dec. 8th & 15th.

► Scandinavian **Q-103** was noted on 13840 kHz Sat Nov. 9th via the txs of the IRRS. The px output consisted of a 1979-1983 review. The following day the px was repeated.

► **RADIO SALLANDSE BOER** is one of the Dutch powerhouses being often to be heard on 48 metres during the weekends. The station was heard 800 kilometres east of Russia's capital Moscow on Sun Sept. 15th when the station was broadcasting on 6290. Power at the moment of reception was 0.5 kW. Add is P.O. Box 139,7890 AC Klazinaveen in the Netherlands. E-mail is <pruim@wish.nl>.

► **RADIO SELECT** can be reached via the following new E-mail add: <6400@hotmail.com>.

► **SENSATION AM** (5) was being received in the USA in the early hours of Sun Sept. 22nd. The station operated on 15725 kHz. Sun Oct. 20th in the early morning hours, the station was received with a nice signal in Australia.

► **RADIO SPACESHUTTLE INTERNATIONAL** is a brandnew European SW station which announced trms on 19 & 48 metres for Sun Oct. 27th. However, nothing was noted that day. Sat Nov. 16th however the station was indeed on the air. That day Radio Spaceshuttle was heard on 15810 & 15795 in the morning hours. 15810 was also noted at 14.00 UTC. Sun Nov. 17th saw another 15810 broadcast in the afternoon hours. Signal-strength was varying between fair and very strong. The station is using the slogan "More rock and less talk" and also makes use of the Internet. E-mail add is <radiospaceshuttle@hotmail.com>. Address is (1).

► Sun Sept. 15th German oldies station **STAR CLUB RADIO** was putting out an Elvis Presley memorial show via the IRRS outlet on 13840 kHz. Most likely this was a repeat from the show which was already aired mid August commemorating it was 25 years ago Elvis Presley died. Signal quality on 13 metres was very good. Sun Dec. 8th saw SCR with a Crazy X-Mas Show on 6260. Signal-strength was good.

► A brandnew station was heard Sun Dec. 8th: **RADIO SUNSHINE 2002** (5). The station was heard on 6280 with a nice signal & almost non-stop Dance & Techno. Two presenters were hosting the shows.

► According to SRS News a new German station calling itself **RADIO THUNDERBIRD** (5) prepares for its start. No times and frequencies known yet, but it will use the SRS Germany address in Merseburg. Do keep in mind always writing 'SRS Deutschland' as the first line when sending reports to (5).

► **RADIO TORONTO** is a new Dutch station which started SW activities in August. Sat Sept. 21st the station put out a very powerful signal on 6300. E-mail add is <wrenkemapeize@cs.com>.

► The OP of **RADIO TORENVALK** has announced that the well-known P.O.Box 94 in 7038 ZH Zeddam will be closing down. In the past many stations from The Netherlands made use of this maildrop. Main reason is that RT will remain inactive in the future. The inactivity is already the case for quite some time. We wish Hans good luck!

## SW ADDRESSES \*\* SW ADDRESSES \*\* SW ADDRESSES \*\* SW ADDRESSES

- 1 = P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herten, the Netherlands
- 3 = POBox 663, 7900 AR Hoogeveen, The Netherlands
- 4 = POBox 130, 92504 Rueil-Cedex, France.
- 5 = POBox 1136, D-06201 Merseburg, Germany (new!)
- 10=SRS, Ostra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby in Sweden

► Dutch **TOWER RADIO** also known as Radio Veronique was heard on 7485 Sun Sept. 29th. Signal strength was excellent. A week later Tower was active on 6410 (including splatter) and 7485. On the latter freq the station had some technical difficulties. Sun Dec. 1st TR was heard with a massive signal on 7476 kHz spluttering some 30 kHz on both sides of the carrier. It is no secret Tower Radio is using several hundred watts of power. The station uses new E-mailaddresses: <radiotower@home.nl> & <radiotower@freemail.nl>. Snailmail add is P.O.Box 49,7475 ZG Markelo in The Netherlands.

► British **UK RADIO** apparently broadcasting from the Midlands can be heard most weekends on 6267 kHz with fine signals. On Sun Oct. 13th a blank carrier was heard on 6267 for several hours leading to the question whether there were serious technical problems.

► **RADIO UNDERGROUND** seems to be an UK operation which was heard testing on 6401 kHz during several weekdays late September and October. Most tests were heard in satisfactory quality in the evening hours. Tests were announced as being live, a hotline was open for instant rec. reports. During the weekends a great number of Dutch stations are using 6400 or freqs close to 6400 making it difficult to use that one for lengthy trms.

► **RADIO VICTORIA** (1) was heard with good strength on Sun Nov. 10th. A week later 6285 provided fine reception. Sun Nov. 24th saw Victoria on 6272. Sat Nov. 30th Victoria was back on 6285 with strong signals. Sat Dec. 7th 6290 was in use, this time signal quality was poor to fair. A stronger signal was heard on 6285 Sun Dec. 15th. The station OP announced to be using 20W which is low power. In that respect it can be said that Victoria puts out good signals. From now on the station uses the Herten maildrop.

☐ **VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS** (3) was noted quite often in the past few weeks, mostly qso-ing to fellow hobby pirates. Despite the low-powered tx, strong signals were noted on the various freqs on which the station was being heard. Sat Sept. 14th saw the station on 6275, 6276 and 6296 kHz. Oct. 20th the station was heard on 6299 & 6300 but suffered technical problems. The station can be reached via the following E-mail address: <voan@hotmail.com>.

Website: <www.geocities.com/voice\_of\_the\_netherlands/>.

☐ Sun Sept. 15th French station **RADIO WAVES INT.** (4) put out special programs under the name WTC911 referring to the Sept. 11th 2001 events just over a year ago. RWI was heard on 6210 with fair signals. A stronger signal was heard on 6309 kHz via RAL where the same programme was running. In addition Waves was heard on 11401 via its own tx and on 15070 via RAL. The programme contained programme extracts from various radio/TV stations giving live coverage of the tragic events in the USA. Sun Sept. 22nd RWI was noted with the same programming on 6245 via Irish JRR. RWI announced to celebrate its 19th birthday with a number of trms spread out over November. The station informed that trms would be taking place on 48, 41 & 26 metres. Sun Nov. 3rd RWI was starting its celebration series with a broadcast on 11401 kHz. A week later 11401 was again used. Sun Nov. 17th 7475 was used, signal quality however was only poor. Website: <go.to/rwi>. Email: <rwaves@imaginet.fr>.

☐ **WESTCOAST RADIO** is one of the most active Dutch stations. WCR uses some 80W of power from the Western part of the Netherlands. Most times the station can be heard with strong & well-modulated signals. WCR operates within the 48 mb but also outside close to 6400 kHz, a spool used for QSO-ing purposes these days. Address is Tulpstraat 10 a, 2223 HS Katwijk in The Netherlands. Email: <westcoastam@hotmail.com>.

☐ **WLS MUSIC RADIO** was to be heard Sat Oct. 19th & all Sun Oct. 27th on 41 metres/ 7395. In the morning the signal was easy to catch for continental DXers whereas the afternoon saw a weaker signal. WLS is an UK radio station with links to the 1980s when the station was already active. WLS was relayed via RNI according to some sources. Sat Dec. 14th & Sun Dec. 15th WLS was monitored on 6210 kHz. In particular during the morning hours reception was good on the continent. WLS was heard with some interesting programmes including archive recordings from Radio Veronica on 192 and ABC Europe- a famous SW pirate from the past- in the mid 70s. Address is (4). Email: <wlsradio@hotmail.com>.

☐ **WNKR** was heard on 6285 and 9330 kHz Sun Sept. 15th. Both freqs were in parallel. Whereas 31 metres was very strong, the 48 mb outlet was providing a fair signal. A week later WNKR was using the same freqs in the afternoon and evening hours. Sun Nov. 10th the station used 6267. A week later 6260, 6267 and 6276 were used by the station. As far as we know there's only an E-mail add available at the moment: <wnkr@37.com>.

☐ **WREKIN' RADIO INT.** from the UK can be regularly monitored with fine signals on 12256 kHz. The station puts out presented pxs based on a format of pop oldies. Sun Sept. 22nd & 29th, Nov. 10th, Dec. 1st & Dec. 15th WRI was noted with strong signals on the European continent.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### IRRS

The IRRS reports that they have recently completed several technical upgrades, which are currently tested via the 13840 outlet. Transmitter modulation has been digitally-enhanced to support CCM (Carrier Controlled Modulation) & DSB (Dual Side Band). The antenna system has been upgraded and the digital audio link to the transmitter and modulation has been improved. The station's engineer appreciates receiving any reception reports for this weekends 08.00-12.00 UTC broadcasts on 13 metres. Power is 10 kW, target area during this weekends trm is Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, with DX reception in the former USSR. In the second week of November the IRRS surprisingly conducted evening tests on 6280 kHz in the 48 mb. Tests started Mon Nov. 4th and continued later that week on Thursday, Fri and Sat. Wednesday Nov. 13th saw another 6280 test. All tests commenced at 21.00 UTC at a moment the freq was perfectly clear. Strong signals were heard all over Western Europe. We are not certain what the purpose was of this test series. E-mail add for reports is <reports@nexus.org>. Additionally, you may tune into <mp3.nexus.org> and obtain a QSL card by reporting on our streaming audio service in parallel with all of our radio broadcasts. Add is P.O. Box 11028, 20110 Milano, Italy.

### Scandinavian Weekend Radio

November 1st-2nd 2002 Finnish SWR started with its new wintertime frequency schedule. For details please go to <www.swradio.net>. Trms are always put out during the first Saturday of each month starting at 21.00 UTC Fri evening. In the mean time the station has started North-America tests on the 25 mb using a 2-element beam directed towards NA (325 degrees). These tests are running from the start of trms until 06.00 hours UTC early Sat morning. During this 8 hour test period, special programmes of the series History of Finnish Radio are included. The station invites listeners to participate to their Mid-Winter Propagation Competition. Each correct & detailed reception report covering the trms in Nov. and/or Dec. will automatically take part in the competition. Prizes will go to three (3) listeners sending the most distant reports as well as some prizes thrown by Dame Fortune. More details on the website: <www.swradio.net>.

### Laser Radio

London-based Laser Radio was broadcasting on 5935 kHz shortwave with 100 kW and on 576 kHz with 50 kW between 0900 and 2100 UTC Sunday 27th October. Both transmissions originate from Ulbroka, Latvia. The programmes will

also be available on the Internet. Laser Radio plays Classic Rock and oldies from the 60's to the 80's. Feature artists include America, Beatles, Bowie, CCR, Clapton, Deep Purple, Doobies, Doors, Eagles, ELO, Genesis, Fleetwood Mac, Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Rolling Stones, Traffic, U2 and many more. The station says it hopes to eventually broadcast on a regular basis via conventional radio and satellite. It can be contacted at BCM Aquarius, London WC1N 3XX, England. Meanwhile, a 'sister station' of Laser Radio called Radio Karolina is preparing to launch on 576 kHz in Latvia. An existing station of the same name broadcasts on FM in Poland.

©© Radio Netherlands Media Network. All transmissions will originate from Ulbroka, Republic of Latvia. <laserradio.net>.

### Chris Cary

Friday October 11th Chris Carey announced that RTE have turned down his proposal to relaunch Radio Nova on their 252 long wave frequency. Chris Cary: "At last a response and it's a resounding 'no'! It clearly is 40 years too late." Explaining why he thinks he was turned down, he says: "20 Years ago severely embarrassed RTE and 20 years later they will not let it happen again." He revealed that he was ready to pump 5 million pounds in the project and had already got the station's schedule in mind.

### Radio Caroline

☐ First of all good news for Ross Revenge lovers: the legendary Caroline vessel will be towed again to Southend on Sea next Summer. Another RSL will be aired from the ship, which will be anchored at the end of the famous (and very long!) Pier. It is not known yet in which period the RSL will be held but as soon as it is known, it'll mentioned in the FRS Newsletter. One thing is for sure, all the programs will be presented from the studios on board the ship. During the last RSL transmissions came from both the ship and the Maidstone studios. A new RSL law prescribes that the presentation of the shows must be done in the surrounding area of the town/village for which the Radio Authority issues the licence. (Martien & Jan, zijn jullie er klaar voor?)

☐ Since early December Caroline isn't anymore on the Astra satellite. If you want to listen, you are forced to buy a World Space receiver to pick up the signal which is transmitted from the Afri Star satellite (several beams). A stroke for all listeners outside of Britain and so also for German speaking listeners. The news about the closure of the Astra service was read out on Fro Nov. 15th at 18.00 UTC. By the way, the last program on ASTRA was presented on Monday December 2nd by Nigel Harris, who worked already for the station in 1977 on the MV Mi Amigo. The reason for leaving ASTRA is that Caroline used a radio transponder of the feed from Vizja TV, which has left Maidstone and are now working from Amsterdam. Station manager Peter Moore claims he's very keen trying to rent another satellite channel, this time on BSkyB. Reason is to attract far more British listeners than before. As already stated in an earlier edition, most British listeners' dishes are directed at BSkyB instead of Astra.

From January 1st 2003 the station hopes to be on a permanent 28 degree satellite. With Sky equipment the service will be available by that means using the 'other channels' menu. In this case the tuning details will be as follows 11681 GHz, Horizontal polarity, Symbol rate 27.5.FEC 2/3. Due to the high costs it could be possible that Caroline would have to share the channel with an American religious provider who then will take over a considerable part of the costs.

In the mean time the encryption of Radio Caroline on Worldspace has started: from Nov. 26th onwards there's no free World Space reception anymore. The stereo digital signal is being broadcast on all three beams of the Afristar satellite positioned above Africa. It covers about one third of the surface of the Earth, an area which encompasses the UK and Europe, also parts of Russia, Afghanistan, the Middle East, the Gulf States, all of Africa and across into India. In all, 122 countries can now receive the Caroline signal. The Caroline management has made an arrangement with Nevada and can offer the following deals to those people who would like to listen to Caroline via a portable Worldspace radio set. If you call 023 9231 3093, Nevada will price a Hitachi or a Joyear WS2000 radio set and if you decide to purchase, the set will be sent you by courier, carriage free. A subscription to Radio Caroline will cost you £ 59.88 per year. To purchase a subscription call Worldspace on + (0)207 494 8222. Add your Int. access code if you live outside the UK. For more information on the Worldspace system please visit their website at <www.worldspace.com>.

So Caroline fans will have to celebrate Christmas and the turn of the year without a satellite outlet that would be audible for everyone. Therefore Peter Moore tried to reach an agreement with Worldspace to encrypted Caroline not before the beginning of next year, but according to Worldspace this would be technical impossible since in conformity with a contract National Public Radio has to be encrypted on the 26th of November 2002. The Dutch Caroline organisation has offered her output as a backup and already made technical alterations which makes it possible for Worldspace to receive and relay their signal. The Dutch cable is not affected by any of the changes! They will continue to bring alternative programs during the UK absence on Astra. New presenters via the Dutch cable service are: Steve Satan (Colin Muesliar), Richard Bismarck, Simon Clark, Gary Lee and an American presenter called Boomer.

☐ Earlier reports that the German programs from Radio Caroline will be stopped can be denied this time. Moore told us that with Peter Och and his friends a decision has been made to go on with the weekly program. Also he told us that soon AJAVANI will start. Believe it or not, rock music from Asia.

☐ Other news is the health of Tony Allan is stable and far much better than expected around this time. When it stays this way during the coming weeks Tony will record 12 hours of special programs for the Christmas period. Moore (and we do agree for 100%) thinks that Tony deserves it as the best entertainer Caroline had in



the seventies and eighties.

### Peter Tait Dies, 52

Fri Sept. 20th one of IRL's top broadcasters, Peter Tait, died aged 52. Peter started radio life with Radio Caroline under the pseudonym Peter Clark in the mid 80s. It was then that he met his good friend Carl Kingston. Peter had been fighting a brain tumour since February. After Caroline, Peter went on to Radio Trent before making Radio Aire in Leeds his home. Following the station's split in 1990 he presented continuously for Magic 828, where his passing was being marked with a full day's tribute on-air Sept. 23rd. Sun Sept. 29th a special repeat of an old Peter Tait program was transmitted via the Dutch section of Caroline. Our condolences are going out to the family of Peter as well as to Carl and his wife who did so much good work to take care for Peter during the last months of his life.

### Where are they now?

Remember Paul May, also known as Paul Dean? He still remembers his days on RNI (1971& remember this marvellous long jingle "RNI goes 24 hours a day") as the best years in radio. He has also good memories on his days on Laser Hot Hits. In the mean time he has totally quit radio and works in a pub annex brewery near Cape Canaveral. But when his working days are over, he wants to return to England again. For the time being he feels settled and is very proud to have raised a family and that he's become a granddad \*\*\* Then we're going to Lex Harding. He was acting as a guest in the RTL4 TV Show "Boulevard" due to the fact that Radio 538 is 10 years old in December. Lex played a vital role in making Radio 538 a popular commercial radio station in the Netherlands. Lex talking was talking about his roots telling Veronica closed down August 30<sup>th</sup> 1974 instead of 31<sup>st</sup>. One day only you will say? For the real die hards this 'one day' really cares! By the way: Lex H. is back with Radio 538 which he left some years ago. Reason is that Erik de Zwart will leave as general director in January. He's got a new job on a rival commercial station, Radio Noordzee Nationaal \*\*\* Robb Eden, a former Caroline and RNI deejay, wrote in to tell that he's back into music. Of course you do remember that it was him who was responsible for the success of Dutch bands like Golden Earring, Earth and Fire and not forgetting Focus. He mentioned in his Email he found a new group he's now heavily promoting: Surefire from Dunstable in Bedfordshire. He was also adding that the lead guitarist from the group is living in the same street as where the Chiltern Radio studios were situated at the time Robb was working there in the 80s. Coincidence? For more info go to < [www.surefiregroup.uksingers.com](http://www.surefiregroup.uksingers.com) >. Finally Robb added that he longs to the day there will be a real rock radio station in Great Britain which will play the better music, like Radio Caroline did in the good old days (of course he refers at the seventies of the last century) \*\*\* Some of the new readers to this bulletin are again former Mi Amigo's or Offshore deejays. First of all we heard from Adri de Bruin this last month. We know him as René van der Elst who worked in 1979/80 for Radio Caroline. He started his career on local pirate radio in Weesp (Radio Vero). After his offshore period he also went into local politics and he still lives in his hometown and is working now for the local radio station Radio Weesp and is also final editor for a local weekly door to door newspaper \*\*\* December will be the last month as a paid employee for former Veronica studio engineer Juul Geleick. After his days with Offshore Radio Veronica he started to work on September 2nd 1974 with TROS radio, where he produced a lot of programs, including the very famous series on the History of Pop Music, called Poster. A program presented by the way, by Tom Mulder (Klaas Vaak on Veronica). But knowing Juul, he will not disappear. One of the things he will be working on in the future is the Veronica archive. Also he has been asked to work for the Broadcasting Museum (all non paid). So we know for sure we will be hearing from him in the not too distant future. Enjoy the future Juul! \*\*\* Former Caroline man Keith Francis is now working in Hungary where he's presenting a daily show on capital's English language station Bridge FM 102.1.

### International News in Brief

Congratulations to David Allan who got an award from the Country Music Association as the international broadcaster of the year. More than 25 years Allan is active in the field of presentation country radio programs. Most recently he could be heard on Ritz 1035, now Mean Country 1035. Also Allan works at the Sky History Channel as a voice-over. Of course the real radio anorak knows Allan from his days on offshore station Radio 390 \*\*\* Just another month before the people of Laser Broadcasting will get their licence from the Radio Authority. To start a local station, MAID FM, in Maidstone Kent. Behind the organisation are a lot of people including Roger "Twiggy" Day. On January the 7th the decision will be taken. Of course also other applicants have asked for a licence \*\*\* A station calling itself Pan European Radio was heard on Wednesday Dec. 4th at 21.00 CET till Dec. 5th Oct. 02.00 CET on 1080 KHz AM. For rec. reports this add was given out: Pan European Radio, P.O. Box 10386, Beverly Hills, CA 90213 in the USA. E-mail: < [paneuroparadio@hotmail.com](mailto:paneuroparadio@hotmail.com) >.

### Special Feature: Digitale AM, DRM

The first radio stations were making use of the so-called medium wave band. To cover longer distances long wave and short wave were added at a later stage. Because of its superior sound quality, FM is nowadays the most important medium used for radio broadcasts. Often it has been suggested that there's hardly any future for AM frms. But it looks like this won't happen thanks to new developments within the technique. There is a global trend towards the adoption of digital technology in radio and communications, especially for distribution and transmission. Digitalisation offers many substantial advantages to national / international broadcasters and infocasters. We are seeing the introduction of high quality delivery system in homes. FM sound broadcasting is gradually moving to a

DAB standard. But coverage on FM 88-108 Mhz (VHF) is limited. For many national and international broadcasters, the advantages of a complementary digital broadcast system BELOW 30 Mhz are becoming clear. However, the limited fidelity of existing AM services is causing listeners to search for other alternatives. Implementation of digital radio in today's AM bands (i.e. long, medium and shortwave) will enable operators to provide services which will be successful with both existing and future high-quality services operating on other parts of the dial. Digital broadcasting on short-, medium-, or longwave (AM) has many advantages when compared to the conventional analogue system we use now. The new technique is developed by Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM). DRM is the world's only non-proprietary, digital AM system for short-wave, medium-wave and long-wave with the ability to use existing frequencies and bandwidth across the globe. DRM combines the advantages of broadcasting in the AM bands with digital modulation. As a result you can achieve an audio quality comparable with FM having the coverage of an AM transmitter. Benefits of Digital AM for listeners are: FM-like sound quality with the AM reach; improved reception quality; Flexible use of radio, whenever and wherever you want it; No change to existing listening habits: same frequencies, same listening conditions (fixed, portable and mobile radio), same listening

### Sunday Dec. 22nd the 20th Christmas broadcast on 48 & 41 metres. Tune in to FRS-Holland, just a bit different....

environment (indoors, in cities, in dense forests); Low cost receiver, low energy consumption; Easy tuning: with selection by frequency, station name or programme type; More diverse programme content, using the full capabilities of new digital features; Wide receiver range with more and better features; Radios that will give you programmes with associated text information, station name, record title, singer's name...

### ABOUT THE DRM CONSORTIUM

The DRM Consortium was formed in 1998 when a small group of pioneering broadcasters and manufacturers joined forces to create a universal, digital system (also called DRM) for the AM broadcasting bands below 30 Mhz -- short-wave, medium-wave and long-wave. Since then, DRM has expanded into an international consortium of more than 70 broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, research institutions, broadcasting unions and regulatory bodies. DRM's membership is global in scope, with members representing more than 25 nations. DRM's membership is rich in its diversity, with members from countries as varied as Ecuador, Tunisia, Germany, China, the U.S.A., Nigeria, Finland, India, the U.K., Japan, Spain and Australia. Even more impressive than the size and scope of DRM's membership is its quality. DRM is the place where engineers from cutting-edge global manufacturing firms work in tandem with the world's best-known media organizations. DRM celebrated its fourth anniversary on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Its inaugural meeting took place in Guangzhou, China in 1998. DRM is governed by an 18-member Steering Board. Its main objectives would be: \* to formulate a digital AM system design, which could serve as a single, tested, non-proprietary, evolutionary world standard, which would be market driven and consumer oriented; \* to facilitate the spread of AM digital technology around the world. Dutch Nozema running the major part of the Dutch broadcast facilities is participating in this international consortium. At present time international tests are being conducted with proto types of the DRM-system AM-band offer very limited space. Sophisticated sound encoding combined with an optimized modulation method make it possible to digitally broadcast an AM radio signal even though there's very limited bandwidth. To encode sounds, DRM makes use of MPEG-AAC (Motion Picture Expert Group - Advanced Audio Coding). AAC is a further development of MP3-encoding. Strongly compromising digital sound will give a lack of treble. With the aid of "spectral band replication" (SBR) the signal is manipulated in such way that it sounds like the original for the listener. Within the available 9 or 10 kHz bandwidth, some 200 carriers are phase and amplitude modulated. The signal is encoded enabling good reception, even when part of the carrier is lost in between the transmitter and receiver. The t DRM-signal can be broadcasted by existing AM ts following a number of adjustments. Results can be listened to on:

<[www.drm.org/system/globsample.htm](http://www.drm.org/system/globsample.htm)>.

**DRM LONG TERM TEST TRANSMISSIONS:** DRM Long Term Test transmissions on short-wave continue from Sines, Portugal (Deutsche Welle), Bonaire, Netherlands Antilles (Radio Netherlands), Juelich, Germany (T-Systems Media Broadcast) and Rampisham, UK, (VT Merlin Communications). On medium-wave Medienanstalt Sachsen-Anhalt is transmitting 24 hours a day in Burg, Germany. The goal of these tests is to prove the reliability of the DRM system over a complete broadcast season. The public unveiling of DRM consumer software and receivers took place on 14 September 2002.

### Internet

☐ Pictures from the 60's? Pure radio! Both legal and pirate.

<[www.sixtiescity.com/Radio/Images/radiopics.html](http://www.sixtiescity.com/Radio/Images/radiopics.html)>.

☐ Check this one... <[www.rnw.nl/realradio/html/offshoreradio.html](http://www.rnw.nl/realradio/html/offshoreradio.html)>.

Sealand has an official website at <http://www.sealandgov.com/>

☐ Offshore Echoes has recently refreshed its Tunes site and it worth while visiting it:

<[www.offshoreechoes.com/offshorethemes](http://www.offshoreechoes.com/offshorethemes)>.

☐ Being a radio addict seems to have positive elements, at least for part of it. Just visit <[www.geocities.com/radioaddiction.uk/](http://www.geocities.com/radioaddiction.uk/)>.

☐ David Miller in New Zealand has opened a new site. It's only in its early stage but there's more to come. It will have a lot of interesting Radio Hauraki stuff. <[www.geocities.com/dave4merlyn/Shoestring.html](http://www.geocities.com/dave4merlyn/Shoestring.html)>

- ☐ Mike Brand, the man from the Middle East reporting about the radio scene in that regio for already many years, has put together all his radio experiences and opened the following site: <[www.earthradio.co.uk/mikebrandnews.htm](http://www.earthradio.co.uk/mikebrandnews.htm)>.
- ☐ On Geoff Hutton's site you can listen to old extracts of pirate stations: <[www.geocities.com/pirateradioflashback](http://www.geocities.com/pirateradioflashback)>.
- ☐ The Dutch site <[radio.nl](http://radio.nl)> features a great number of interviews with radio personalities from past and present.
- ☐ Remember Radio Nova in Dublin, Ireland? The station had a touch of offshore. Fond memories come up when surfing to: <[www.amfm.org.uk/bx/bx18/nova.html](http://www.amfm.org.uk/bx/bx18/nova.html)>.
- ☐ An interesting website about early British Radio and the later pirate happenings is <[www.sterlingtimes.co.uk/broadcasting.htm](http://www.sterlingtimes.co.uk/broadcasting.htm)>. There are a few errors, but has much arorak stuff.
- ☐ The site of the man who made it all possible. His name: Marconil <[www.marconicalling.com/](http://www.marconicalling.com/)>.
- ☐ The site of Mister Sterling is full of nostalgia: <[www.sterlingtimes.co.uk/](http://www.sterlingtimes.co.uk/)>.

## MADE IN HOLLAND

One of the oldest locations from the Dutch broadcasting history, transmitting station Kootwijk, which was officially opened by then Dutch Queen Wilhelmina in 1927, will not be broken up. In this station the first connection with former Dutch Indië (Now Indonesia) was made on short-wave. It will be renovated and by sponsoring from government, local authorities and KPN be rebuilt into a museum. This month was also a month of a record. For the first time more than 10 million Euro was paid in once month for making advertising possible on radio and television in our tiny Holland. Last record was 2,5 years ago, when in one month 9.1 million was sold. The success is especially due to the fact advertising on radio is strong and above all very cheap and effective.

### ANNUAL DUTCH RADIO DAY

Normally the date for this highly popular day among offshore and radio enthusiasts is already announced in October. But: during the last years the Radio Day was organized at the Koningszaal nearby the Artis Zoo in Amsterdam. The new management has raised the prices for hiring the Koningszaal with some 40% and that's is far too much in the eyes of the organizers Rob Olthof and Hans Knot. So they are still negotiating. As a result the next Radio Day could take place October or November instead of early in March! It stands now it may be October or November when the Radio Day will be held. Why? Freewave Media Magazine is 25 years old in July 2003. That some month 25 years ago the very first Radio day was organised, in cooperation with Mike Baron. Next to that October 2003 the Foundation for Media Communication (SMC) is 25 years old as well. More tahn enough to celebrate. Therefore four special quests will be invited and in addition all the guests of the the past 25 years (at their own expenses).

### RADIO 538 PROGRAMME-CONTROLLER MOVES TO RIVAL

After leaving the business some years ago, Lex Harding is again responsible for the daily running of Radio 538, the station he founded 10 years ago together with Eric de Zwart. Reason is that Erik (former Paul de Wit on Caroline in 1979/80) is going to work for John de Mol's company Talpa Capital. This company bought all the shares from Radio Noordzee last month and Erik will not only be responsible for the daily running of this station but also will focus on founding several radio stations within Europe. Erik will also cease presenting his weekly Top 40 on TMF TV.

### RADIO NATIONAAL: AM TX OF AIR

November 1st Dutch commercial radio station is Radio Nationaal switched off the 1296 AM frequency. This time-out is necessary to reduce the very high costs to secure the future of the station. The station continues with non-stop music 24 hours a day 7 days a week via cable and Internet. Radio Nationaal owns the exclusive right of re-starting trms on 1296 AM. The tx is situated in the UK (Ofordness).

### DIGITAL RADIO IN THE NETHERLANDS

Early 2003 the so-called Randstad area, the western part of the Netherlands with the highest density, will have the honour to be the first getting digital radio transmissions. The intention is that 40% of the country must be able to receive digital radio broadcasts before the 2003 Summer. It's a fact that The Netherlands lay behind compared with the rest of Europe. Last year a test project had to be ceased because of lack of financial backing from the Dutch government. The new Dutch government (in the mean time having resigned) have yet issued a license to the public broadcasters in the country. One major condition one must have a digital radio. Such device can receive radio signals in a superior quality compared with FM. Besides: the receiver is capable of receiving pictures and texts. Most digital radios have a small built-in display monitor.

### TOP 2000

During the last week of December all Dutch public broadcasters will take part in the annual listener's Top 2000. This list put together by the listeners of the Dutch MOR station Radio 2, started in December 1999 and became so popular that the All time Top 2000 is now broadcasted every year in the last week of December. However from this year onwards there will be something extra: the list will get TV coverage. During the last week of December a series of documentaries will be brought on the national TV channel 3 covering the story of certain songs which are to be found in the All Time Top 2000. From January 1st 2003 Radio 2's output will be extended to 24 hours a day. That means an extra 35 hours will be added. Up till now Radio 1 (national newsstation) and Radio 2 were sharing the nightly output. Talking about the X-Mas Holiday Season: several Dutch stations will be airing special harts. Commercial rock station Arrow Classic Rock will start on December

20th with the The Arrow Rock 500, compiled by its listeners. And Radio Noordzee will be putting out the Top 888 from the 1980s between Dec. 27th and Dec. 31st.

### RADIO 192

This youngest Dutch commercial radio station is very busy creating a distinct profile witness the fact a number of well-known deejays have been joining the 192 presenting crew. And all of them have an offshore past. From Monday September 30th Peter van Dam is back on Dutch radio presenting the weekdays between 18.00 and 19.00 in the evening on Radio 192 with the program 'Hek van de Dam'. When doing a guest program at the Zezender week last September, the feeling to make a regular program for the station came into being. It was the atmosphere and the rule not to use a computer which plans the tracking list which was for Peter the reason to ask Radio 192 for an own show. They were of course delighted to make use of him. Peter started his career at Radio Caroline in 1972 as Peter Brian and worked for Radio Atlantis and Radio Mi Amigo as Peter van Dam. From there on he worked for Dutch public broadcasters AVRO and TROS as well as for Radio 10. During the last years he worked within the Belgium Radio and Television industry.

One of the other newcomers at Radio 192 is Edo Peters, who worked for Radio Monique in the mid eighties and also works for a local station Seaport FM in IJmuiden and has his Media Voice Production Company. Edo has also taken part in the organization responsible for the three editions of 'Muziek uit Zee'. By the way Edo Peters did his first program on Dutch radio as a 11 year old guy, the week after Elvis Presley died. Most remarkable new presenter is Ferry Maat, a radio professional in heart and soul. He started his career on Radio Northsea's Dutch service and also worked for TROS Radio and Radio 10. One of his most famous shows was the Soul Show running till 1988. Since December 2nd Ferry Maat is back on the Dutch radio with his show "Maat in the Afternoon" at prime time 14.00-16.00 hours Mon- Fri. He used to do this very popular show on Dutch national MOR station Radio 2 for 5 years but was forced to leave due to internal conflicts. With Ferry Maat Radio 192 hopes to make a chance of obtaining a nation-wide FM frequency. Right now 192 covers not the whole of the country via AM or cable. The AM 1332 signal is less than 5 kW, too weak to provide a strong signal everywhere. Ferry Maat says that Radio 192 reminds him to the offshore radio atmosphere in the 70s. "This is the place where the real music lovers meet each other. People who know exactly what kind of mix has to be played, a balance between familiar and hard to find golden classics." 192's rival Radio 10 FM is only playing familiar hits and is much more predictable when looking at the music format. Ad Bouman has disappeared from the regular weekday programming of Radio 192. But he still remains at Radio 192 as he is doing the styling and production work for the station. Last but not least: the latest newcomer is former Mi Amigo presenter Ferry Eden. Hardly 6 weeks ago he was a guest in the late Sat evening show "Club Mi Amigo". Apparently Ferry became very enthusiast by what he heard and saw. Mon Dec. 16th he will return on the radio presenting the daily "Goud van Oud" show a few times a few.

Radio 192's Holiday Season programming is a very attractive one, at least when you are a radio and oldies enthusiast. X-Mas Eve between 19.00- 24.00 hours Jingle Bells with familiar and rare X-Mas tracks. X-Mas Day the station puts out the 1969 Top 100 between 09.00- 18.00 hours. That same day between 18.00-20.00 the Dutch version of the famous radio play "War of the Worlds" is to be aired followed by a two hour Andy Williams X-Mas Special. Boxing Day the 1979 Top 100 will be played. Between X-Mas and New Year Radio 192 will re-broadcasts a number of 2002 highlights: the best hours of the Offshore Week late August, Radio 192 live from the Nordmercy in Antwerp etc.

### DUTCH RADIO SOAP PART ???

The Dutch council of ministers has decided that the terrestrial frequencies for commercial radio stations will be allocated by means of a system called the comparative test. Major component is the financial offers the commercial stations have to make. Friday Oct. 11th the Dutch magistrate made a decision about a request made by the authorities to change the pronouncement made on July 24th 2002 in which the magistrate urged to allocate the frequencies via an auction. The magistrate decided that: looking at the changed situation and circumstances- the Dutch cabinet is the body entitled to decide in which way the available frequencies have to be allocated. The cabinet was forced to announce the allocation of freqs before January 1st 2002 (this has been done in the mean time) securing a new spot for a number of stations June 1st 2002. Licenses will be issued for a period of 8 years. Two freqs will be allocated to stations putting out a clearly alternative music format. In this respect Kink FM only audible via cable, could be one of the lucky stations in June 2003.

### LAST CHRISTMAS (WHAM) WORST ALL TIME X-MAS RECORD

Wham's "Last Christmas" from 1984 was chosen as the worst all time X-Mas record by listeners of the poular Radio 2 Show Schiffers.FM. Presenter Hans Schiffers wanted to know about his listening audience's opinion regarding the massive airplay of X-Mas records in December. That resulted in the election. Listeners could vote via the Radio 2 website and the Top 5 was: 1) "Last Christmas" (20%), followed by national André Hazes with "Eenzaam Kerst" (Lonely X-Mas), "All I Want For Christmas Is You" sung Mariah Carey & Chris Rea's "Driving Home For Christmas". The #5 position was occupied by the everlasting "White Christmas" sung by Bing Crosby. Remarkable is that Last Christmas (Wham) was one of the best selling X-Mas records ever in The Netherlands. Still it is one of the most-played X-Mas tunes on Dutch radio.

Thanks to: Hans Knot, SRS-News, Dr. Tim News, Scandinavian Weekend Radio.